

## TITLE:

AN IRRIGATING MEDIUM FOR ROOT CANALS AND METHOD  
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

This invention relates to the use of antiseptics in root canal treatment so as to reduce the proliferation of bacteria and other micro-organisms remaining in the root canal after obturation.

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Sodium hypochlorite is universally used as an antiseptic for root canal irrigation, its principal functions in root canal treatment being microbicidal, dissolving organic material and lubrication. However, a disadvantage of sodium hypochlorite is that it is highly toxic to human tissues and cells in concentrated form and potentially even fatal at the concentrations at which it is at its most effective as an irrigating medium.

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## OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is accordingly an object of this invention to provide a novel, relatively inexpensive and safe irrigating medium for root canals.

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## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided the use of an aqueous solution in the preparation of an irrigating medium for use in the treatment of root canals, the aqueous solution being characterised in that it is electro-chemically activated. The electro-chemically activated aqueous solution may consist of an aqueous anion-containing and/or an aqueous

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